

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2 December 2003
at the Mortimer Hall**

Members Present

Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman
Mrs. M.C. Stone Vice-chairman
Mesdames Cox and Nurse
Messrs Bartleet, Batey, Cann, Cox, Holmes and Swift
The Chairman welcomed Mr. Cox who had been appointed to fill the vacancy
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance
City Councillors Mr. R. Darke and Mrs. M. Clarkson

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. Tiwari and Mr McGinn

Correspondence

A copy of the booklet "Wired up Villages" was received. The Clerk said that as there had been no response to the request in the Marston Times for organisations interested to identify themselves, it was decided to take no further action
Notice of a Meeting of the Radcliffe Hospital Transport Residents Forum on 8 December 2003 was received. No attendance was recommended since previous meetings had been informative rather than consultative

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 November 2003 were confirmed and signed.

North East Area Committee

Mrs. Stone said that the question as to the eligibility for grant towards improvements to the amusement area was settled. It was agreed that the cost of the dog fence and the safety surface could be aggregated to put the cost above the £5,000 barrier and work could commence before the grant was determined.

Dismay was expressed that road humps were again in favour in the Barton scheme. It was hoped that there would be none in the local scheme.

Changes in planning policy arising out of the Development Control User Panel were also before the Committee. Matters affecting the Parish were the proposed design guidelines for extensions and simplified forms for applications for domestic extensions. The Clerk had succeeded in being invited to the Panel meeting and had drawn attention to the need for a designated slot for Parish comments to planning applications at NE Area Committee meetings, the desirability of curbing conversion of houses into flats and the need for Building Regulations to be made public and enforced. Mr. Darke drew attention to Planning Policy Guidance Notes No. 3, one of the Government's advisory leaflets on planning matters that clearly encouraged intensification.

Standards Committee

Mr. Batey had attended a meeting, called by the City Council's Monitoring Officer, where the procedural matters were discussed. Complaints for transgressions against the Code of Practice being referred to the Ethical Standards Officer at the Standards Board for England who would direct it to the Local Officer for determination where appropriate.

Planning

Applications

The following were considered:

- 11 Fane Road – conversion into 4 flats – considered between meetings. Opposition was made, inadequate parking. Mrs. Clarkson said the application had been called in to the main Planning Committee
- 139 Oxford Road – new house on a corner plot that appeared adequate. However the design of the extension needed further consideration in the light of the new guidelines.

Haynes

Decision

The following was approved:
St. Nicholas' Church - new vestry

Other Matters

The Clerk would reply to Mr. Crofton-Briggs' letter that gave the wrong impression of the application of Local Plan provisions.
Mr. Darke agreed to ascertain what, if any, Building Regulations applied to conversion of houses into flats and any need for a means of escape from fire for second floor flats.

Accounts

The following accounts were passed for payment:		£
B.J. Lewis	Plumbing work to Burial Ground tap	696.06
W.J. Cooper	Burial Ground maintenance	833.14
L.M. Garner	Salary and petty cash	1569.58

It was regretted that the costs of the plumbing work exceeded expectations due to misleading information from the water undertakers concerning the specification for the pipe that cost about £250 more than the standard pipe that had already been laid.
The Burial Ground had been maintained to a high standard in accordance with the Council's wishes, reflected in the amount of work done

Grants to Local Organisations

It was decided that the following grants be paid at the next meeting:

Organisation	£
Mortimer Hall Pre-school	200.00
St. Nicholas PCC. (Marston Times)	250.00
Old Marston Mill Lane Allotment Association	100.00
Oxford Fieldpaths Society	4.00
Oxsrad	300.00
St. Nicholas First School	200.00
Scouts	200.00

£1254.00

The Chairman, Mrs. Cox and Mr. Cann declared an interest in OXSRAD and took no part in the decision.

Mrs. Cox declared an interest in the Pre-school and took no part in the decision
It was decided that next year applications should be made for particular projects ~~not for running expenses~~. The PTA should apply on behalf the school as it raised funds for items not in the school budget. An application form would be used in future.

The Clerk confirmed that he had reminded organisations that had not applied this year.

Clerk's Salary

The Clerk left the room for this item. On being invited to return the Chairman said that it had been decided to increase the Clerk's salary by 4%, to with effect from 1 April 2003.
The minute of 2 March 1999 agreed that the Clerk would act as Consultant and Clerk of Works for the Burial Ground Extension and be paid £25 per hour. The Chairman had agreed a schedule of activities totalling 24 hours to 18 June 2001. The Clerk said he would not charge for duties after that date. It was agreed that £600 be paid.

Recreation Ground

The Clerk had received the specification for the base required for the Boults Lane swings' safety surface and had asked for a quotation.
Mr. Holmes assured the meeting that there would be no further problems with the disposal of rubbish from the pavilion.

CMB/ma

Mr. Holmes and the Chairman described problems with parking in Boults Lane, cars obstructing access to the allotments. It was decided to have the access road part of the open area cross-hatched yellow in the hope that drivers would not park on it.

It was said that the recently placed posts needed some marking to make them more visible in the dark, the reflectors the Chairman had affixed having been removed. Yellow paint was suggested. The Clerk would enquire what black paint had been used.

Plans of maintenance work, suggested by the sub-committee following the inspection of the Council owned sites, were circulated and accepted. The Clerk would produce a specification and obtain a quotation.

Highways

It was reported that objections had been made to the site chosen for the Marsh Lane Toucan crossing and the provision had been put on hold.

The Old Marston finger sign had disappeared from the Cherwell Drive junction.

In view of the regular use of Oxford Road between Cherwell Drive and Elsfield Road it was decided to request appropriate signs at each junction.

Road markings had faded on the Arlington Drive Estate. It would be reported.

Attention was again drawn to the standing water, in rainy periods, at the Cherwell Drive/Elms Drive junction.

The decrepit utility cabinet box in Rippington Drive had been identified as belonging to Southern and Scottish Electric that had agreed to replace it.

Burial Ground

An application for the advance purchase of two plots from a resident in Edgeway Road in 1999 was agreed but deferred because of limited space until completion of the extension.

Since then the rules of residency had changed but it was agreed to honour the request on the terms applicable at the date of application.

The Chairman had agreed to a memorial in the form of a small wooden cross, with inscription.

A Deed of Grant was signed in respect of plots C 17 & 18.

Allotments

The Annual Report was received from the Association.

Date of Next Meeting

6 January 2004

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